NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Cason to Speak on BIA Education at NIEA 2005

WASHINGTON – Interior Associate Deputy Secretary James E. Cason will appear October 7 at the National Indian Education Association's (NIEA) 36th Annual Convention in Denver, Colo., where he will speak on Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Indian education programs and policy. The NIEA convention is the largest annual convocation of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian educators in the United States.

Topics he will address include the proposed restructuring of the Office of Indian Education Programs (OIEP) and the national search for a new OIEP Director, implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in the BIA-funded schools, and the continuing success of the Bureau's Family and Child Education Program (FACE) in strengthening the school readiness skills of young learners.

In School Year 2003-04, the BIA school system served over 45,000 American Indian children in 184 elementary and secondary day and boarding schools located on or near 63 reservations in 23 states. One-third are BIA-operated schools; the remaining two-thirds are tribally operated under BIA contracts or grants.

WHO: James E. Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior.

WHAT: Associate Deputy Secretary Cason will speak on BIA Indian education programs and policy at the National Indian Education Association's 36th Annual Convention.

WHEN: 10:00 a.m. (local time) on Friday, October 7, 2005.

WHERE: Colorado Convention Center, Ballroom 5-8, 700 14th Street, Denver, Colo.

CREDENTIALS: This invitation is extended to working media representatives, who are required to display sanctioned media credentials for admittance to the event.

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